

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CORRECTED CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NOS. 2021-15-C, 2021-16-C, 2021-17-C, 2021-18-C, 2021-19-E, 2021-21-E, 2020-22-E, and 2021-23-C

ORDER NO. 2021-27-H

MARCH 12, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTIONS:

Application of CarolinaConnect Cooperative, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Carolina;

Application of TriCoLink, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Carolina;

Application of Sandhill Connexions, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Chesterfield County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support, and a Request for Waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.1 (B and C);

Application of Starlink Services, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support, and a Request for Expedited Consideration;

Application of Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Charleston County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I Support;

Application of Horry Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Georgetown and Marion Counties for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I Support;

Application of Aiken Electric Cooperative, Incorporated for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934;

Joint Application (Public Version) of Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC and Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction (Auction 904) Support for Voice and Broadband Services and Request for Expedited Consideration.

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Order of Presentations at Oral Arguments on Monday, March 15, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER'S ACTION:

The parties will present their arguments as to any requests for expedited consideration in their specific Dockets in the order listed on the attached "Cast of Characters." Parties will need to log on to the Commission system by 8:45 am on Monday, March 15, 2021 so that the Commission Staff may perform any virtual testing that may be necessary with the parties. This concludes the Directive of the Chief Hearing Officer.

Staff Member Reading the Docket: David Butler, Esq.

DOCKET NO.:
2021-15-C through 2021-23-C

March 15, 2021

10:00 AM

- a. **DN 2021-15-C** **NOT CERTIFICATED**
Application of **CarolinaConnect Cooperative, Incorporated** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Carolina
- J. David Black, Esquire*
Todd Lantor, Esquire
- Representative/Participant:
Glenn Martin, CEO
- b. **DN 2021-16-C** **NOT CERTIFICATED**
Application of **TriCoLink, Incorporated** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of South Carolina
- John G. Felder, Sr., Esquire*
- Representative/Participant: None
- c. **DN 2021-17-C** **CERTIFICATED**
Application of **Sandhill Connexions, LLC** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Chesterfield County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support, and a Request for Waiver of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690.1 (B and C)
- Carrie DeVier, Esquire*
Robin Tuttle, Esquire
- Representative/Participant: None

- d. **DN 2021-18-C** **NOT CERTIFICATED**
 Application of **Starlink Services, LLC** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for Purposes of Receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Support, and a Request for Expedited Consideration

Charles L.A. Terreni, Esquire
R. Edward Price, Esquire

Representative/Participant: None
- e. **DN 2021-19-C** **CERTIFICATED**
 Application of **Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Charleston County for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I Support

M. John Bowen, Esquire
Margaret (Peg) Fox, Esquire

Representative/Participant: None
- f. **DN 2021-20-C**
NOT PARTICIPATING – DOCKET ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED
- g. **DN 2021-21-C** **CERTIFICATED**
 Application of **Horry Telephone Cooperative, Incorporated** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Certain Census Blocks in Georgetown and Marion Counties for Purposes of Receiving Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I Support

M. John Bowen, Esquire
Margaret (Peg) Fox, Esquire

Representative/Participant: None
- h. **DN 2021-22-C** **NOT CERTIFICATED**
 Application of **Aiken Electric Cooperative, Incorporated** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Communications Act of 1934

Frank Ellerbe, Esquire

Representative/Participant: None

i. **DN 2021-23-C**

NOT CERTIFICATED

Joint Application (Public Version) of **Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC and Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC** for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to Receive Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction (Auction 904) Support for Voice and Broadband Services and Request for Expedited Consideration

Mitchell Willoughby, Esquire

Andrew J. D'Antoni, Esquire

Representative/Participant:

Ben Breazeale, Sr. Director, Regional Governmental Affairs

j. **OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF**

Lessie Hammonds, Esquire

Alexander Knowles, Esquire

Jenny Pittman, Esquire

Representative/Participant: None

GROUP 1: The following applicants have Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide local exchange service in South Carolina:

1. **DN 2021-17-C:** Sandhill Connexions, LLC holds a CPCN as a CLEC in the State of South Carolina; has not been designated as an ETC in the State of South Carolina.
2. **DN 2021-19-C:** Palmetto Telephone Communications, LLC holds a CPCN as a Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC); was designated as an ETC in DN 2012-236-C and had that designation extended in DN 2020-208-C; and seeks designation in additional areas.
3. **DN 2021-20-C:** NOT PARTICIPATING – DOCKET ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED
4. **DN 2021-21-C:** Horry Telephone Cooperative, LLC is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC); is designated as an ETC in its service area; was granted ETC status in additional Census Blocks in DN. 2018-346-C (Order 2019-48(A)); and seeks designation in additional areas.
5. **DN 2021-23-C:** Charter Fiberlink SC-CCO, LLC and Time Warner Cable Information Services (South Carolina), LLC – DN 2021-23-C: Both Carriers hold CPCNs as CLECs in the State of South Carolina; neither carrier has previously been granted designation as an ETC.

GROUP 2: These carriers do not currently hold CPCNs to operate as telecommunications carriers in South Carolina:

1. **DN 2021-15-C:** CarolinaConnect Cooperative
2. **DN 2021-16-C:** TriCoLink, Cooperative
3. **DN 2021-18-C:** Starlink Services, LLC
4. **DN 2021-22-C:** Aiken Electric Cooperative, Incorporated